

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 4168

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 OECD PARIS 26130

LIMDIS

DEPT TO CONSIDER PASSING TO SECRETARY. TOKYO FOR
ENDERS AND COOPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: FRENCH POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

1. SUMMARY: THERE IS A "NINETY-FIVE PER CENT CHANCE"
THAT FRANCE WILL SURFACE A DRAFT RESOLUTION BEFORE THIS
THURSDAY'S HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING CALLING FOR
AN OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING BEFORE THE END OF THE
YEAR TO CONSIDER CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OF THE OECD LONG TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT. THE DRAFT
RESOLUTION WHICH THE FRENCH DCM SHOWED OUR DCM ALSO
CALLS UPON THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS
PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HOW THE RECOMMENDA-
TIONS IN THE LONG TERM ASSESSMENT COULD BEST BE
IMPLEMENTED "IF NEEDED" THROUGH STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN
THE OECD. FOLLOWING INFORMATION DEVELOPED TODAY IN
COURSE OF LUNCH ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR TURNER WITH
FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE VALERY AND OTHER KEY
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HEADS OF DEL, AS WELL AS SEPARATE MEETING BETWEEN DCM

AND FRENCH DCM DE WARENGHIEN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FRENCH DELEGATION IS WAITING FOR A "GREEN LIGHT" TO DISSEMINATE THE TEXT OF THIS DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ALL OECD DELEGATIONS. APPARENTLY THE IDEA FOR PROPOSAL CAME FROM "ON HIGH." TEXT WAS WORKED OUT AT SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL (ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES BEING INVOLVED) WITH JEAN RENE BERNARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION. AND JEAN PIERRE CABOUAT, THE ENERGY MAN AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY, BEING THE PRINCIPAL DRAFTERS. BRUNET DID

NOT MENTION THIS IDEA IN WASHINGTON, THE FRENCH DCM TOLD US, BECAUSE IT SIMPLY WAS NOT RIPE UNTIL THIS MORNING. THE DCM CONFIRMED OUR INTERPRETATION THAT THE PROPOSAL IS AWAITING FINAL ELYSEE APPROVAL.

3. THE DRAFT PROPOSAL PLAYS A CRUCIAL BUT STILL INDEFINITE ROLE IN THE TACTICS THE FRENCH WILL EMPLOY VIS-A-VIS THE DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION ON THE ENERGY AGENCY. ACCORDING TO THE PREVIEW GIVEN US, THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE WILL ENUNCIATE THE FOLLOWING POSITION AT THURSDAY'S HEADS OF DEL MEETING CALLED TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT DECISION:

A. FRANCE WILL NOT VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION. IT WILL ABSTAIN. FRENCH ABSTENTION WILL NOT BE CAST IN TERMS OF OPPOSITION. FRANCE BELIEVES IN COOPERATION ("CONCERTATION") WITH THE PRODUCERS RATHER THAN "CONFRONTATION" WHICH THE IEP SEEMS TO SET UP, AND FRANCE WILL ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW "CONCERTATION" FOR THE TIME BEING.

B. FRENCH DELEGATION WILL NOT QUIBBLE OVER THE DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION SETTING UP IEA, WHICH HE SAID HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF BEING HEAVILY NEGOTIATED AMONG THE TWELVE, SINCE FRANCE WILL ABSTAIN. FRENCH REP

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MAY HOWEVER REMARK THAT CERTAIN FEATURES GIVE GOF REASON FOR CONCERN. FRENCH DCM REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO WORD "AUTCNOMOUS" TO ARTICLE 6, AND TO ARTICLE 9 (REF KATZ/HOPKINS TELCON OF YESTERDAY). PROBLEM FOR FRANCE SIMPLY IS THAT THESE TEXTS APPEAR TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT THE TWELVE INTEND TO GUT ONGOING OECD ACTIVITIES AND TO SHIFT ALL ENERGY ACTIVITIES TO IEA.

C. FRENCH DELEGATION (NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS AN OFFICIAL FRENCH POSITION) IS IRRITATED RATHER THAN MOLLIFIED BY THE DAVIGNON DRAFT DECLARATION, WHICH, WHILE APPARENTLY SEEKING TO REASSURE NON-IEA COUNTRIES ABOUT OECD-WIDE COOPERATION, IN FACT HAS SERVED TO DEEPEN FRENCH SUSPICION ABOUT IEA COUNTRY INTENTIONS RE OECD COOPERATION. FRENCH REP VALERY IS PARTICULARLY IRRITATED BY THE WAY DAVIGNOR'S TEXT HAS BEEN FLOATED, SAVING THE DRAFT AND TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED BETRAY A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF OECD PROCEDURES. HE TERMED IT "RIDICULOUS" THAT VAN LENNEP AND ELDIN SHOULD SET THEMSELVES UP AS NEGOTIATING BETWEEN DAVIGNON AND THE TWELVE ON ONE HAND AND THE FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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ON THE OTHER. IT WAS NOT HOWEVER CLEAR IF FRENCH WOULD PREFER TO DO WITHOUT THE DAVIGNON TEXT AND COUNCIL ENTRY IN THE MINUTES, ALTHOUGH VALERY BROACHED THIS POSSIBILITY IN RATHER PETULANT FASHION DURING THE LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADOR.

D. FRENCH WILL "ALMOST CERTAINLY" SURFACE THEIR DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING A MINISTERIAL MEETING. FRENCH DCM REPEATEDLY SPOKE ABOUT THIS IDEA AS A TEST OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE IEA COUNTRIES REGARDING OECD-WIDE COOPERATION. THE QUESTION FOR FRANCE IS

WHETHER THE IEA COUNTRIES INTEND TO GUT OECD OF MOST OF ITS CONTENT, MOVING ALL THE IMPORTANT ISSUES INTO THE IEA, OR MEAN WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT OECD-WIDE COOPERATION. IN RESPONSE TO PROBE, FRENCH DCM ADMITTED THAT IEA COUNTRIES ARE HARDLY LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND AT OECD HEADS OF DEL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7, AND PERHAPS MAY NOT EVEN BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE A DEFINITE RESPONSE ON NOVEMBER 15. EUT GOF HE SAID WOULD JUDGE THE "GOOD-WILL" OF THE IEA COUNTRIES BY THE NATURE OF THE RESPONSE PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 15, AND WILL DRAW THE CONSEQUENCES. IN ANSWER TO QUERY, HE STOPPED SHORT OF DRAWING ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE NATURE OF THE IEA COUNTRIES' RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 15 AND FRANCE'S ABSTENTION ON OECD COUNCIL RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING IEA NOVEMBER 15. "ON THE SURFACE" HE SAID THERE IS NO CONNECTION.

4. WHEN ASKED WHAT FRENCH EXPECTED OECD MINISTERIAL TO DO, FRENCH DCM REPLIED HE ASSUMED MINISTERS WOULD TAKE DECISIONS ON THE RESPECTIVE "COMPETENCES" OF THE IEA AND OECD. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE REALLY EXPECTED MINISTERS WOULD COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS GRUBBY PROCEDURAL DETAILS, FRENCH DCM SAID THAT, IN CONSIDERING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IN RECENTLY COMPLETED LONG-TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT (WHICH STEMS FROM OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISIONS IN 1972 AND 1974) MINISTERS WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH FOLLOW UP ACTIONS AND FACE UP TO PROBLEM AS TO WHO WAS TO DO WHAT. THAT IS WHY FRENCH DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD ASK SECGEN TO PREPARE SPECIFIC PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS. IN THIS WAY
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FRENCH WILL KNOW FOR SURE, FRENCH DCM SAID, WHAT THE FUTURE OF OECD WILL BE.

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5. FINALLY FRENCH DCM REMARKED BRUNET DID NOT RAISE THIS MATTER IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE THE PROPOSAL DID NOT EXIST WHEN HE WAS THERE, PRESUMABLY MEANING IT HAD NOT RECEIVED SUFFICIENT CLEARANCE. FRENCH DCM CLAIMED NOT TO SEE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PROPOSAL FOR OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AND GISCARD PROPOSAL FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING OF TWELVE PRODUCERS, CONSUMERS AND LDCS.

6. COMMENT: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER 7 MEETING. WE ASSUME WE CAN GET AWAY ON THAT OCCASION WITH TAKING NOTE OF FRENCH PROPOSAL, SAYING WE WOULD TRANSMIT IT TO OUR CAPITAL AND EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT AGREEMENT ON SUCH A WEIGHTY MATTER, ESPECIALLY ON THE TIMING (FRENCH DCM IMPLIED FLEXIBILITY IN TIMING) COULD BE REACHED BEFORE NOVEMBER 15. WE WOULD ALSO COUNSEL SOME PRUDENCE ON REACTING TO THIS PROPOSAL MERELY ON BASIS OF FRENCH PERREP AND DCM'S INFORMATION. THIS MATTER OBVIOUSLY ORIGINATED IN UPPER REACHES OF ELYSEE AND QUAI AND WE SHOULD HAVE MORE DIRECT PROBE BEFORE RESPONDING.

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